



PARASHURAMA

SIXTH INCARNATION OF VISHNU

Vol 764 |

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PARASHURAMA



PARASHURAMA WAS BORN THE SON OF RISHI JAMADAGNI AND RENUKA. BUT IT WAS A BIRTH UNDER STRANGE CIRCUMSTANCES.

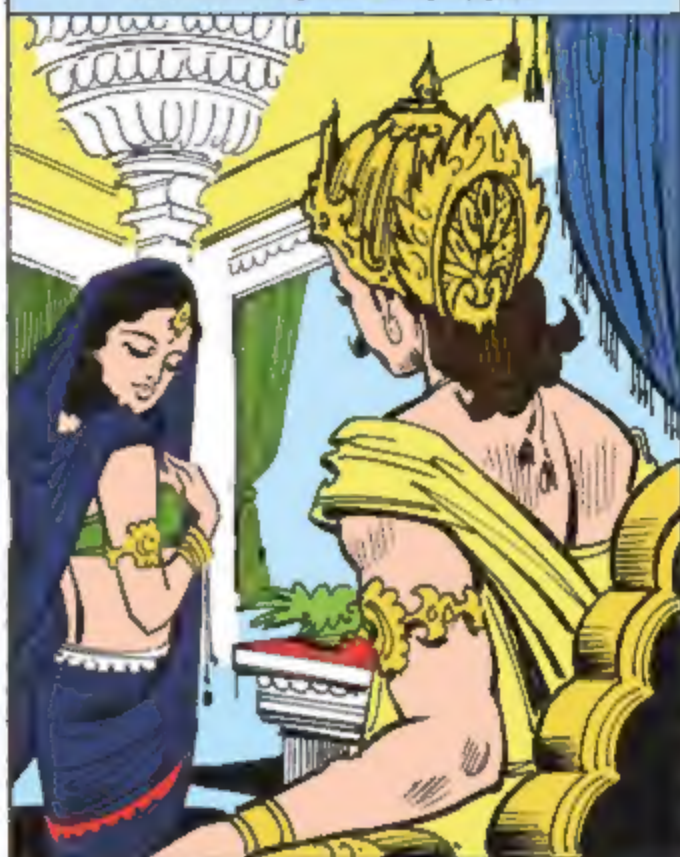
HIS GREAT-GRANDFATHER,
GADHI, WAS A GOOD KING.

WE ARE
FORTUNATE THAT
OUR KING IS
STRONG AND
KIND.

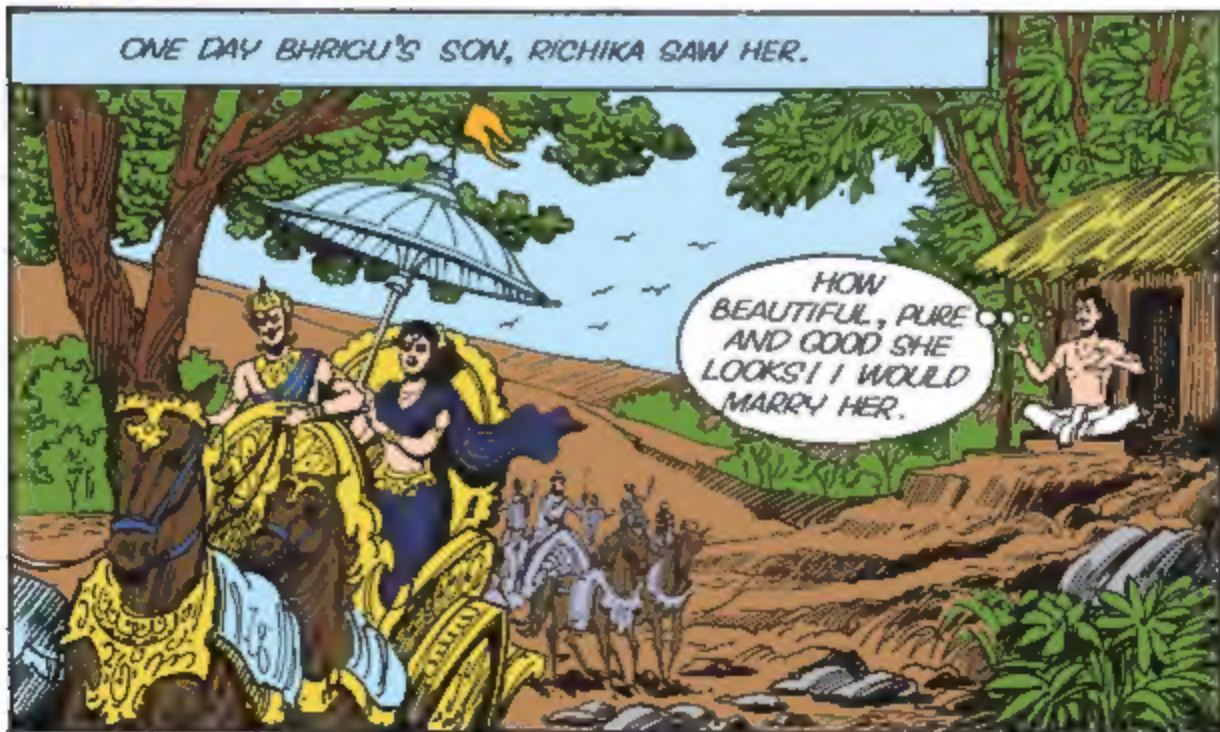
YES.
AS LONG AS
HE RULES,
WE NEED
FEAR NONE.



GADHI HAD A DAUGHTER CALLED
SATYAVATI, BUT NO SON.



ONE DAY BHRIGU'S SON, RICHKA SAW HER.



HE WENT TO HER FATHER.

I HAVE
COME TO YOU
SEEKING YOUR
DAUGHTER'S
HAND.

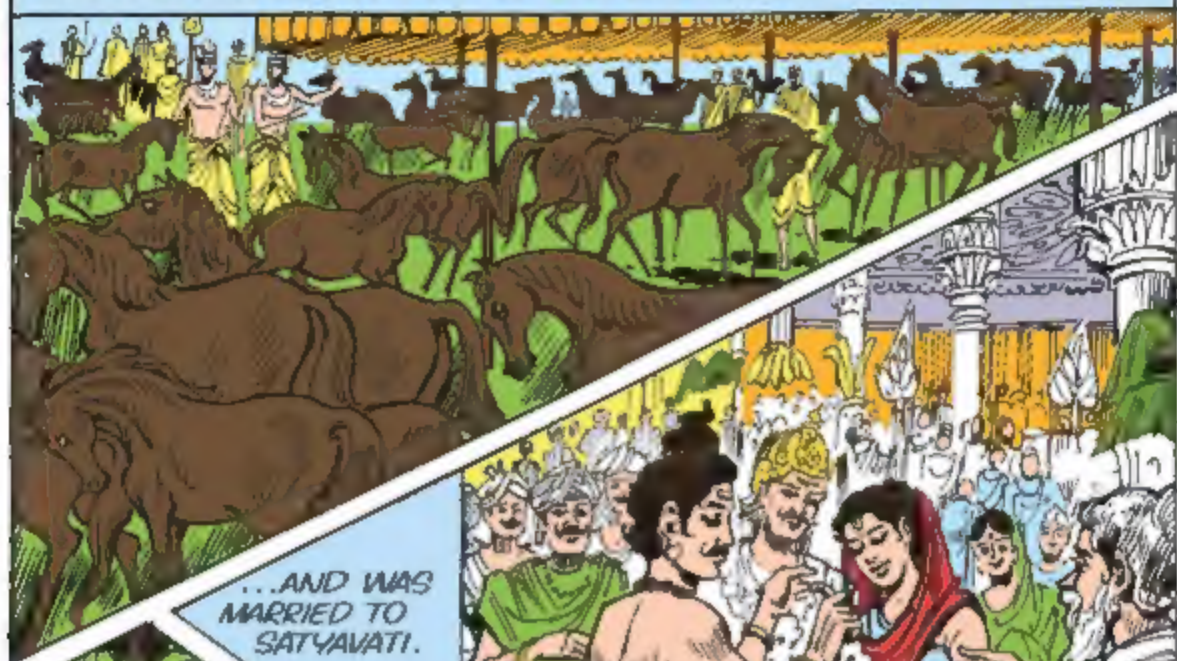
I AM HONOURED,
GREAT SAGE.
BUT...

...YOU WILL HAVE
TO BRING A DOWRY
OF 1000 BROWN HORSES.
IT IS THE CUSTOM
IN OUR
FAMILY.

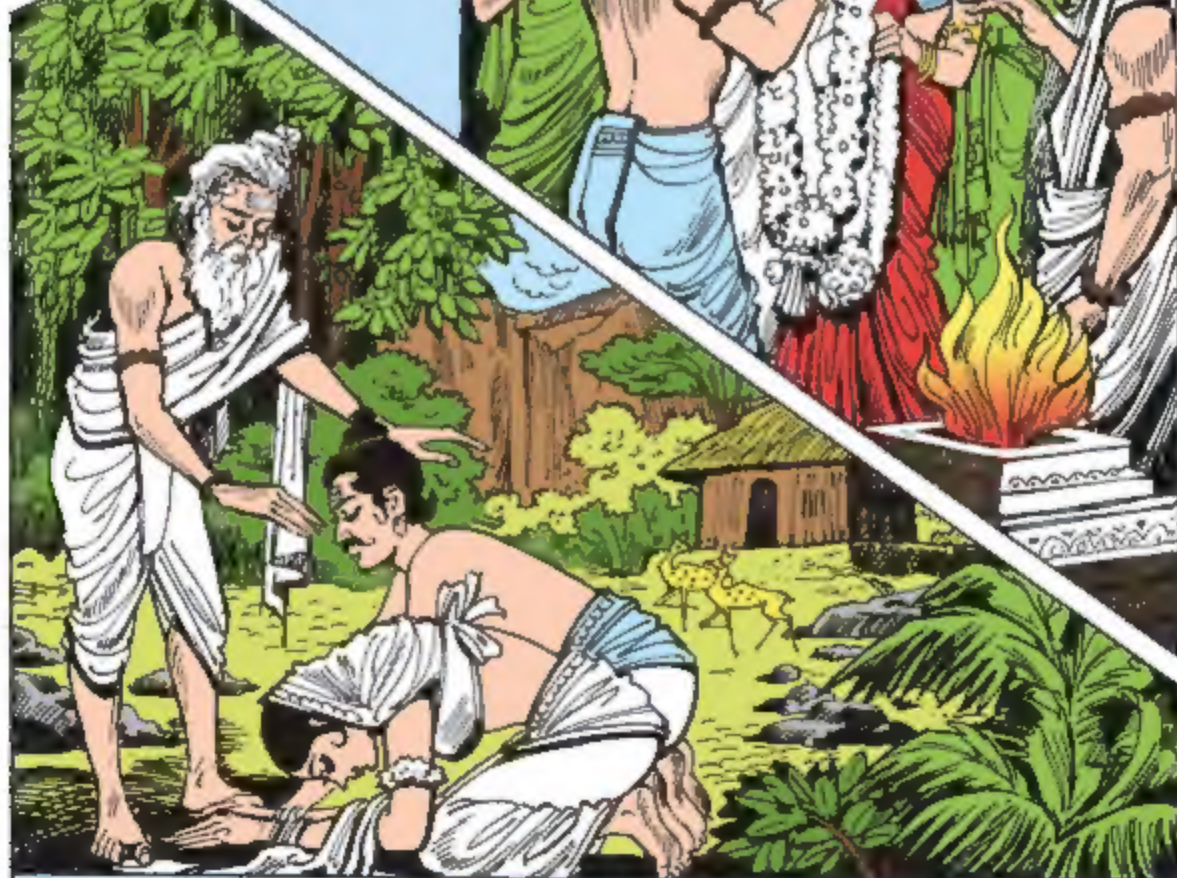
CAN YOU?

IS THAT ALL?
IT SHOULD
NOT BE VERY
DIFFICULT.

SO RICHIKA GAVE GADHI THE THOUSAND BROWN HORSES...



...AND WAS
MARRIED TO
SATYAVATI.



ONE DAY BHRIGU CAME TO VISIT HIS SON AND DAUGHTER-IN-LAW.

THEY LOOKED AFTER HIS NEEDS
WITH AFFECTION.



I AM INDEED
FORTUNATE
IN MY
CHILDREN.



BHRIGU WAS PLEASED.

OBEDIENT
AND DUTIFUL
DAUGHTER-IN-LAW,
I AM
WILLING TO
GRANT YOU
ANY BOON
YOU
ASK
OF
ME.

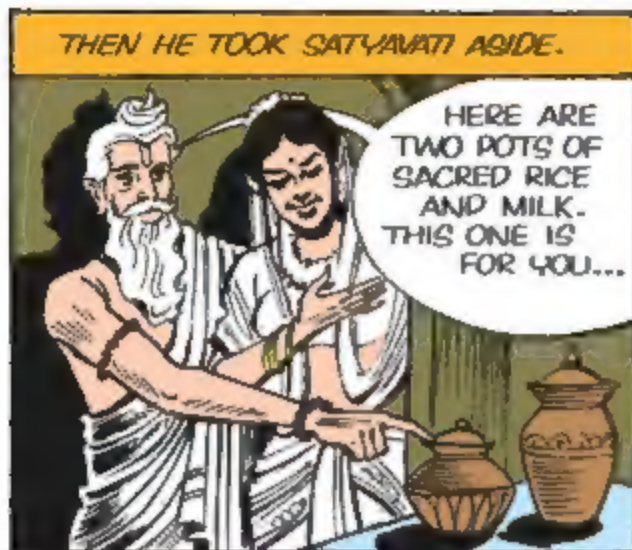


FATHER,
GIVE ME A SON
AND A BROTHER.

YOU SHALL HAVE
BOTH.



THEN HE TOOK SATYAVATI ASIDE.



HERE ARE
TWO POTS OF
SACRED RICE
AND MILK.
THIS ONE IS
FOR YOU...

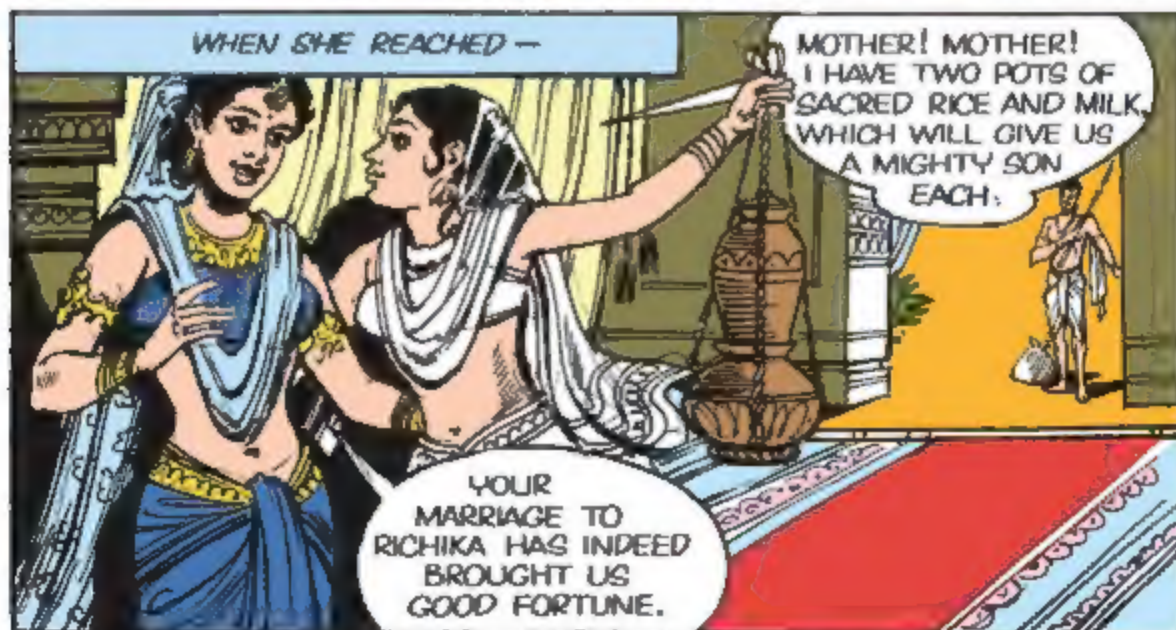


... AND
THAT ONE
FOR YOUR
MOTHER.

WHEN
BHRIGU
LEFT,
SATYAVATI
PICKED
THE POTS
AND
ALONG
WITH
HER
HUSBAND
WENT
TO HER
MOTHER



WHEN SHE REACHED —



MOTHER! MOTHER!
I HAVE TWO POTS OF
SACRED RICE AND MILK,
WHICH WILL GIVE US
A MIGHTY SON
EACH.

YOUR
MARRIAGE TO
RICHKA HAS INDEED
BROUGHT US
GOOD FORTUNE.

BUT HER MOTHER TOOK THE POT
MEANT FOR SATYAVATI AND...

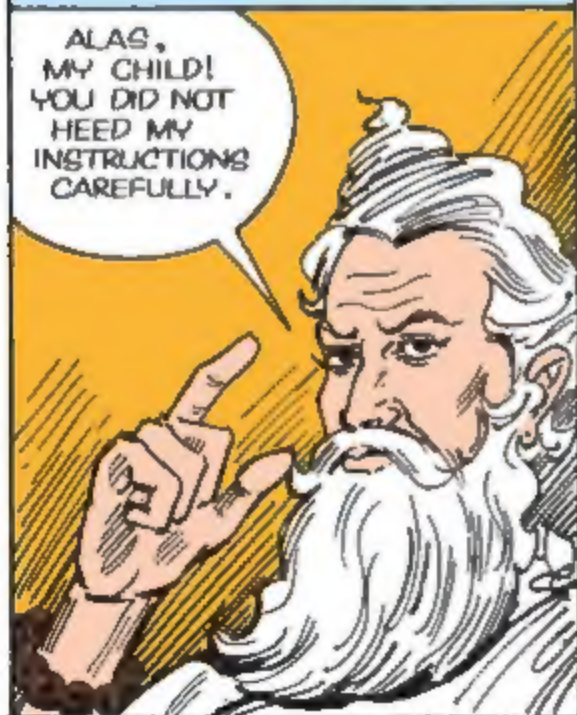


...SATYAVATI TOOK THE ONE MEANT
FOR HER MOTHER.



SAGE BHRIGU IN HIS SPIRITUAL
VISION SAW THE EXCHANGE.

ALAS,
MY CHILD!
YOU DID NOT
HEED MY
INSTRUCTIONS
CAREFULLY.



NOW,
YOUR MOTHER'S
SON THOUGH A
KSHATRIYA, WILL
TAKE TO THE
LIFE OF AN
ASCETIC.





AND YOUR SON
THOUGH A BRAHMANA,
WILL BECOME
A WARRIOR.



SATYAVATI BEGAN
PLEADING WITH BHRIGU.

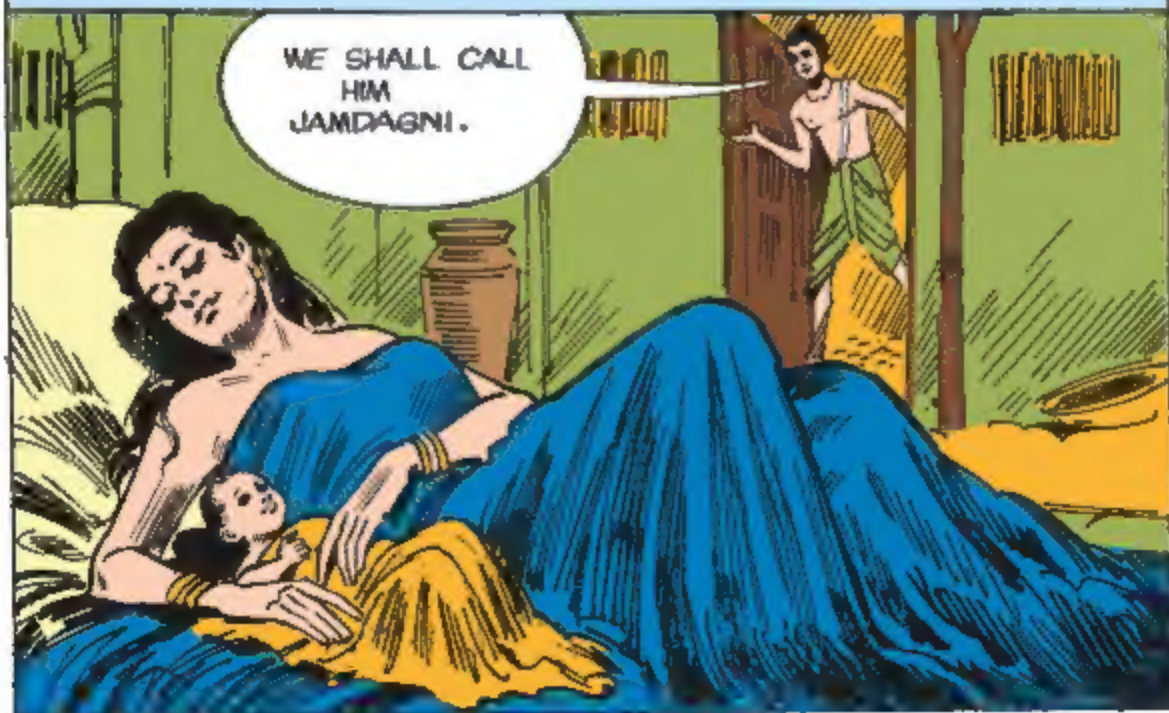
O REVERED SIRE,
LET MY GRANDSON
BE SUCH
BUT NOT
MY SON.



BHRIGU WAS MOVED
BY HER ENTREATIES.

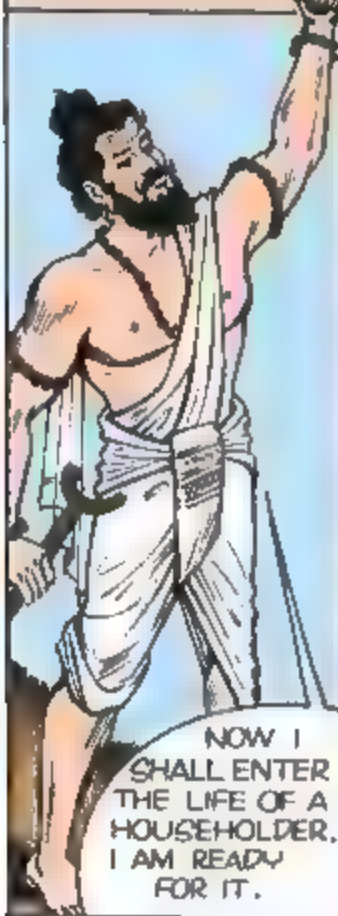
SO BE IT,
MY CHILD.
GO BE IT.

IN DUE TIME SATYAVATI HAD A SON.



WE SHALL CALL
HIM
JAMDAGNI.

AS JAMADAGNI GREW UP, HIS DEVOTION TO THE STUDY OF THE VEDAS ALSO INCREASED AND HE SOON MASTERED THEM.



NOW I SHALL ENTER THE LIFE OF A HOUSEHOLDER. I AM READY FOR IT.

SO HE MARRIED THE CHASTE RENUKA.



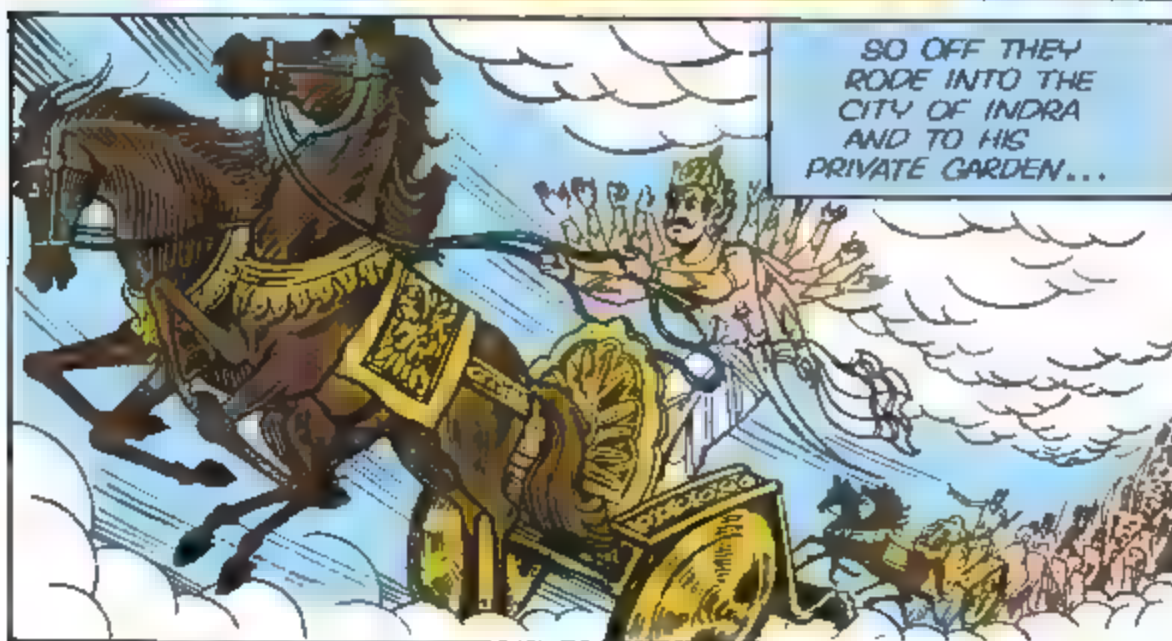
MOST OF THE KSHATRIYAS OF THOSE DAYS WERE VICIOUS. THEY WERE BECOMING A MENACE AND A BURDEN TO MOTHER EARTH. THE WORST OF THEM WAS KARTAVIRYA ARJUNA, THE 1000-ARMED KING OF THE HAIHAYA TRIBE.



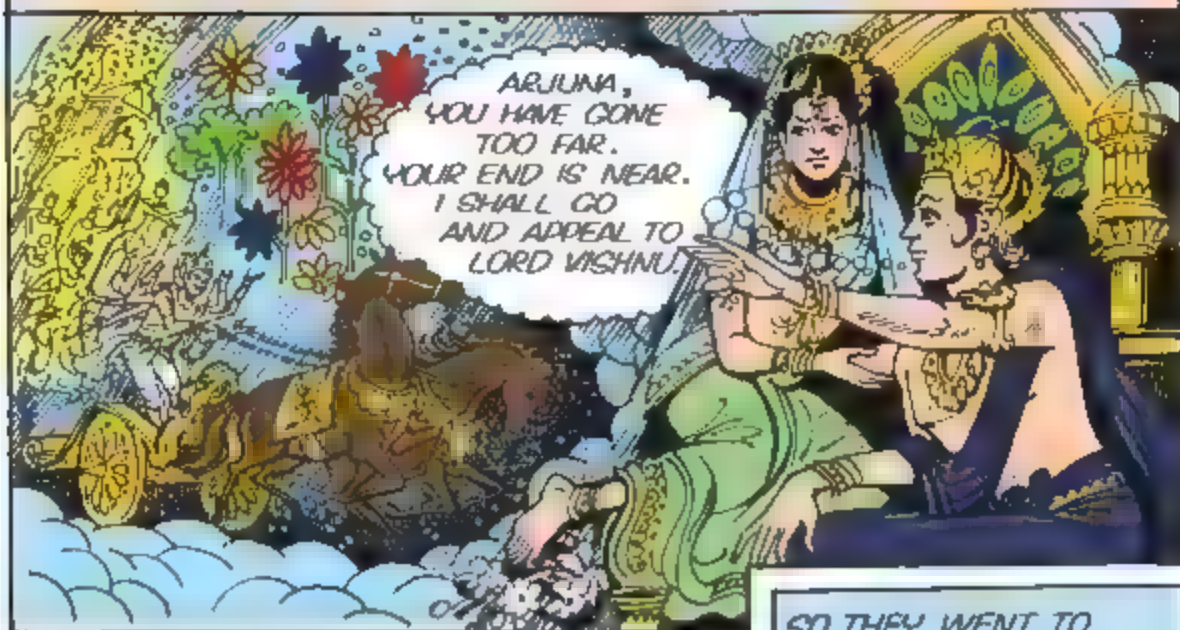
MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN TREMBLED WITH FEAR WHENEVER KARTAVIRYA ARJUNA RODE INTO A CITY IN HIS INVINCIBLE GOLDEN CHARIOT.



RUN! RUN!
KARTAVIRYA
ARJUNA
IS HERE!



...WHERE INDRA WAS RESTING WITH HIS WIFE, SACHI.



IN THE MEANWHILE, THE SAINTS AND SAGES OF THE DAY COULD NO LONGER BEAR THE VIOLATIONS OF THEIR PENANCES AND SACRIFICES BY KARTAVIRYA ARJUNA.

SO THEY WENT TO LORD VISHNU.



AS SOON AS THE SAGES HAD LEFT,
INDRA ENTERED.



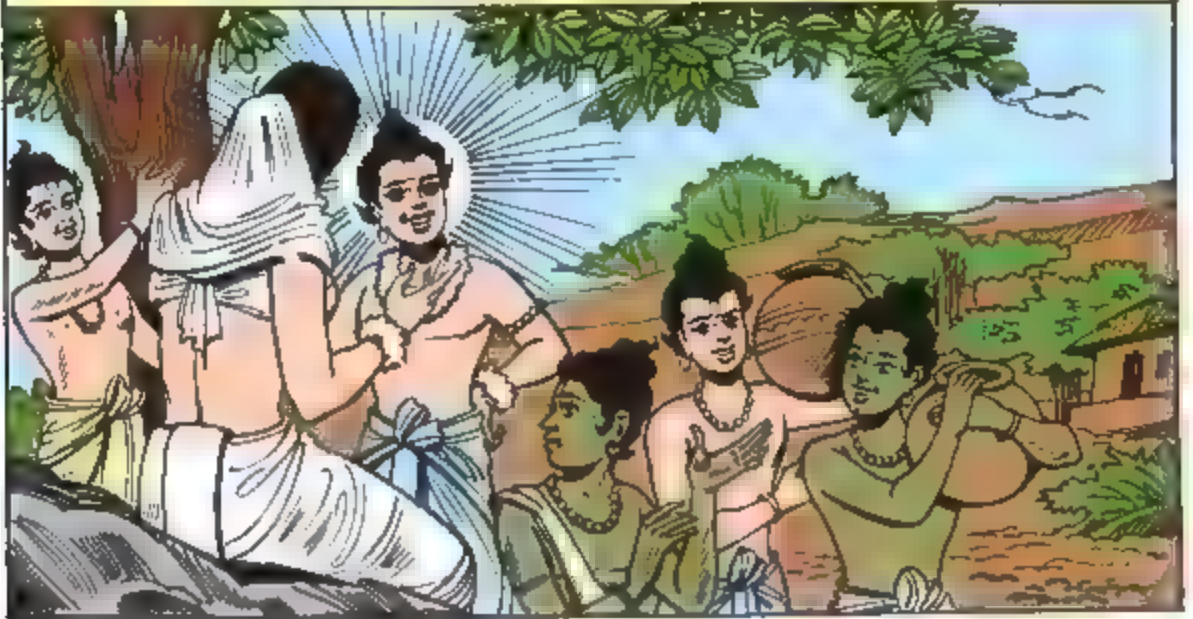
I WILL TAKE AN
AVATAR ON EARTH
AS A BRAHMANA WITH
UNUSUAL PHYSICAL
PROWESS AND
OVERPOWER HIM



MEANWHILE FIVE SONS WERE BORN TO RENUKA AND JAMADAGNI.



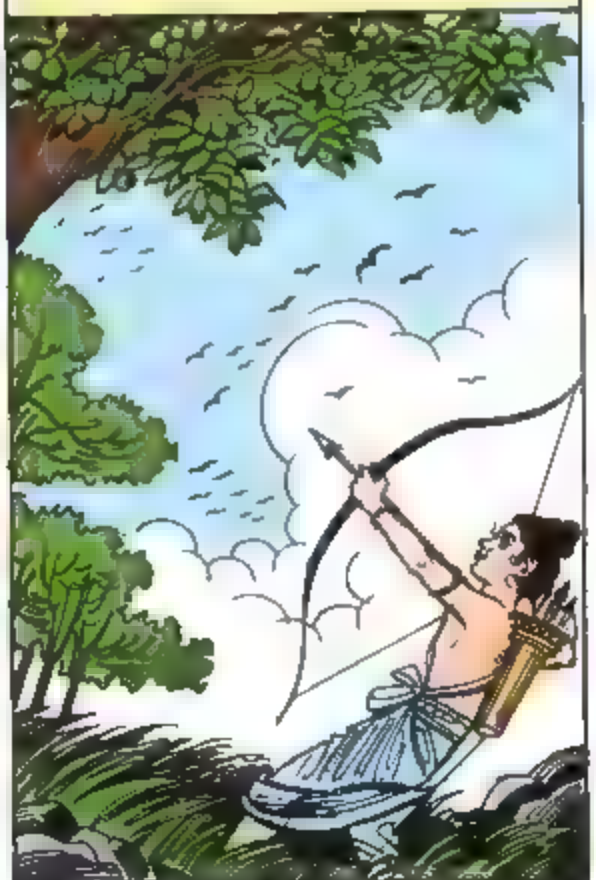
THE FIFTH AND YOUNGEST WAS RAMA WHO WAS REALLY VISHNU REBORN TO FULFIL HIS PROMISE TO INDRA AND THE SAGES.



AS A CHILD RAMA WAS FOND OF PHYSICAL EXERCISE AND...



...PLAYING WITH WEAPONS.



RAMA SOON GREW UP INTO A STURDY YOUTH. ONE DAY -

FATHER, I WISH TO GO TO THE GANDHAMADANA MOUNTAINS AND BY AUSTERE PENANCES GAIN LORD SHIVA'S FAVOUR.

GO IF YOU MUST, MY SON. YOU HAVE MY BLESSINGS.



RAMA WENT AND SAT IN MEDITATION AND UNDERWENT SEVERE PENANCES.



AT LAST SHIVA APPEARED TO HIM.

YOU HAVE PLEASSED ME BY YOUR DEVOTION. WHAT IS IT THAT YOU DESIRE?



I HAVE SET MY HEART ON THE FIERY AXE, THE POWERFUL PARASHU.

AS YOU DESERVE, YOU SHALL HAVE IT. NO WARRIOR ON EARTH SHALL SURPASS YOU.



AND FROM THAT DAY RAMA CAME TO BE
KNOWN AS PARASHURAMA.

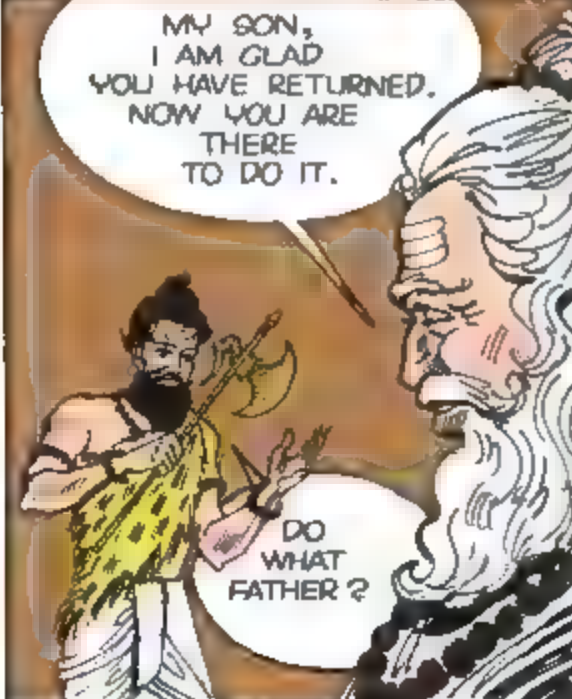


TAKING HIS AXE, PARASHU-
RAMA RETURNED TO HIS
FATHER'S ASHRAM.



JAMADAGNI WAS OVERJOYED TO
SEE HIM.

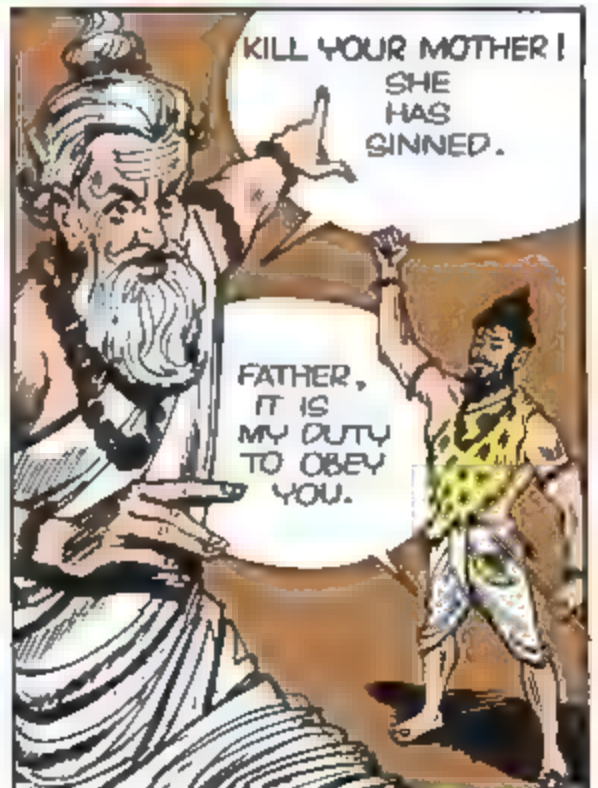
MY SON,
I AM GLAD
YOU HAVE RETURNED.
NOW YOU ARE
THERE
TO DO IT.

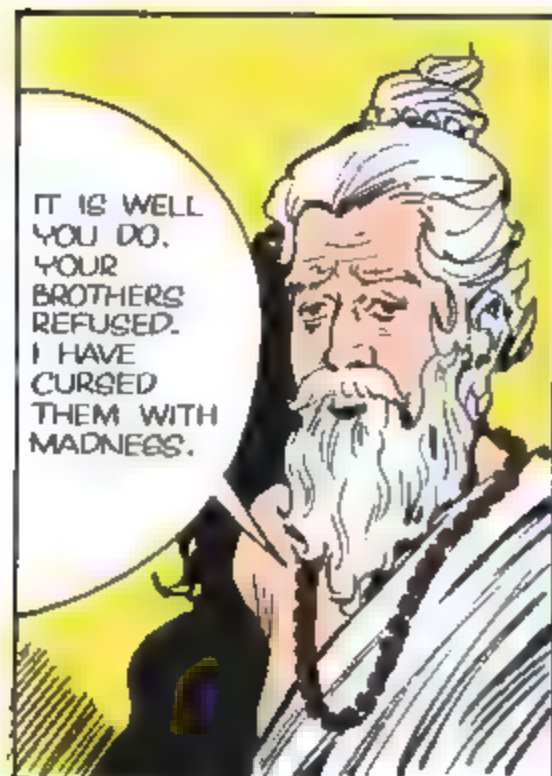


DO
WHAT
FATHER?

KILL YOUR MOTHER!
SHE
HAS
SINNED.


FATHER,
IT IS
MY DUTY
TO OBEY
YOU.





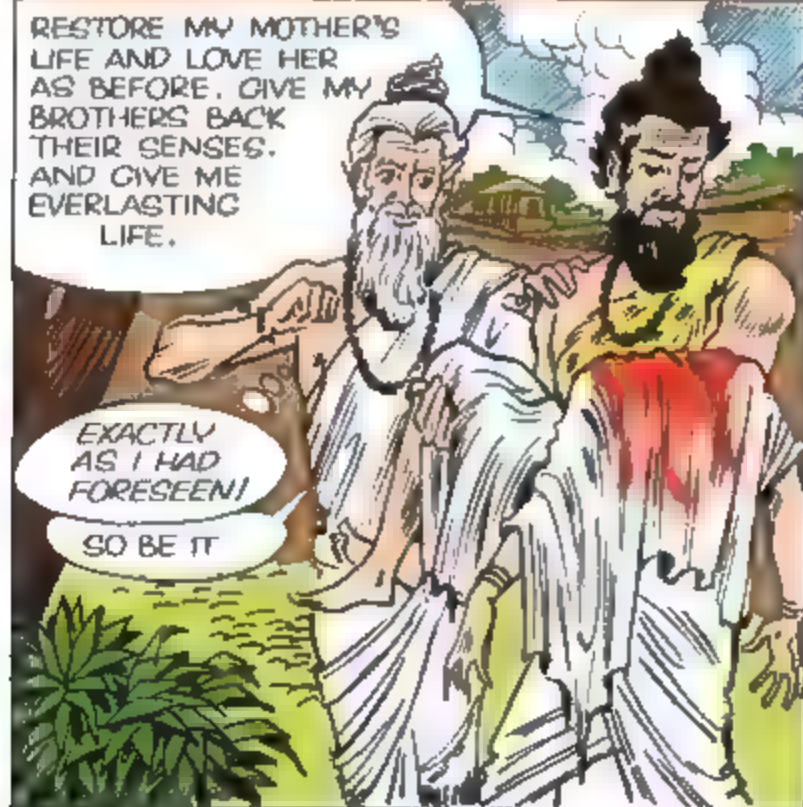
PARASHURAMA, WITH ONE BLOW OF HIS AXE, KILLED HIS MOTHER.

YOUR UNQUESTIONING OBEDIENCE PLEASES ME. ASK ANY BOON AND IT SHALL BE YOURS.



THIS WAS WHAT PARASHURAMA WAS WAITING FOR.


RESTORE MY MOTHER'S LIFE AND LOVE HER AS BEFORE. GIVE MY BROTHERS BACK THEIR SENSES. AND GIVE ME EVERLASTING LIFE.



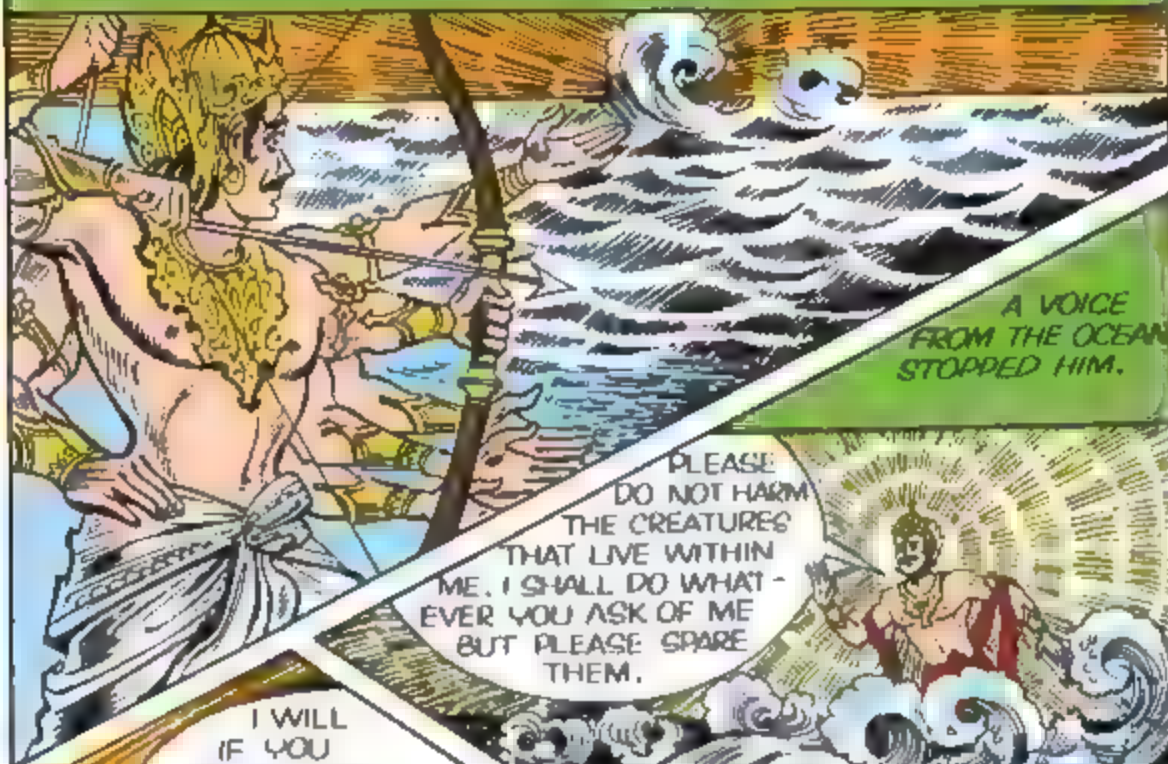
EXACTLY AS I HAD FORESEEN!

SO BE IT

JAMADAGNI WAS ONLY TOO GLAD TO GRANT HIM HIS BOONS.



MEANWHILE KARTAVIRYA ARJUNA CONTINUED IN HIS TYRANNY. ONE DAY WHILE PACING ARROGANTLY ON THE SEASHORE, HE BEGAN SHOOTING ARROWS INTO THE WATERS OF THE OCEAN.



A VOICE
FROM THE OCEAN
STOPPED HIM.

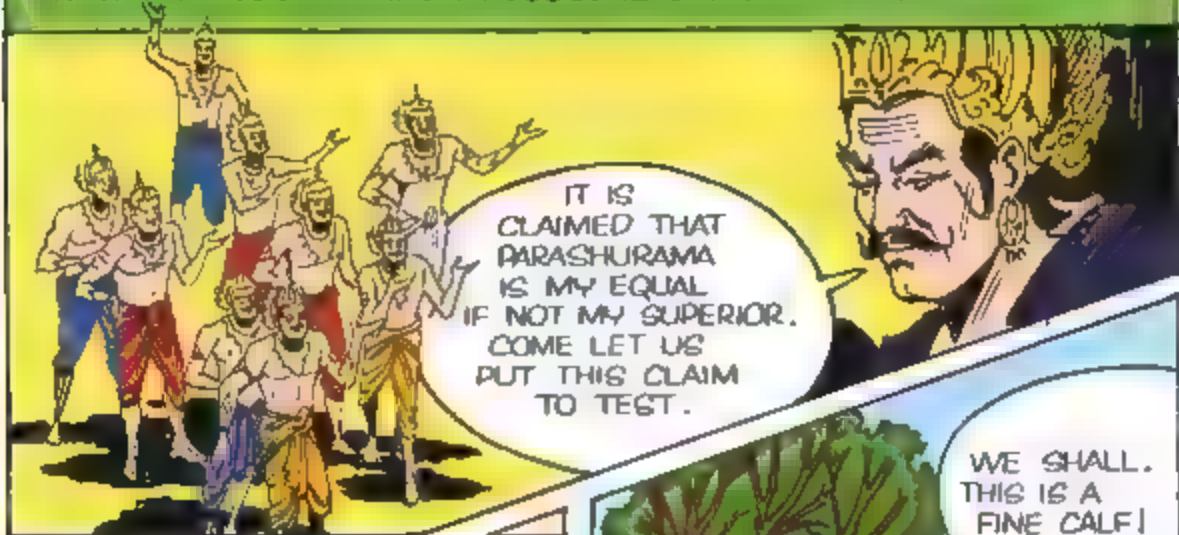
PLEASE
DO NOT HARM
THE CREATURES
THAT LIVE WITHIN
ME. I SHALL DO WHAT-
EVER YOU ASK OF ME
BUT PLEASE SPARE
THEM.

I WILL
IF YOU
ANSWER THIS
QUESTION. IS THERE
A MAN WHO CAN
RIVAL ME?

YES.
PARASHURAMA,
THE SON OF JAMADAGNI.
HE IS MORE THAN
YOUR EQUAL.



KARTAVIRYA ARJUNA WAS FURIOUS. HE CALLED HIS SONS TO HIM.



IT IS CLAIMED THAT PARASHURAMA IS MY EQUAL IF NOT MY SUPERIOR. COME LET US PUT THIS CLAIM TO TEST.

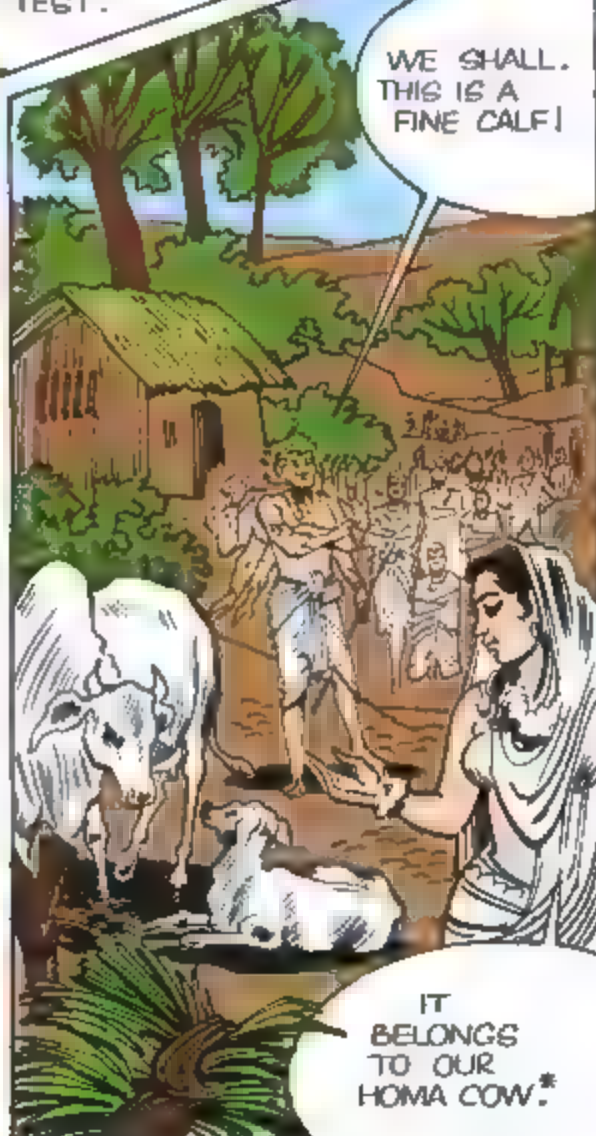
WE SHALL. THIS IS A FINE CALF!

SO THEY WENT TO JAMADAGNI'S ASHRAM.



WHERE IS PARASHURAMA?

HE IS NOT HERE. BUT PLEASE STAY AWHILE AND BE OUR GUEST.



IT BELONGS TO OUR HOMA COW.*

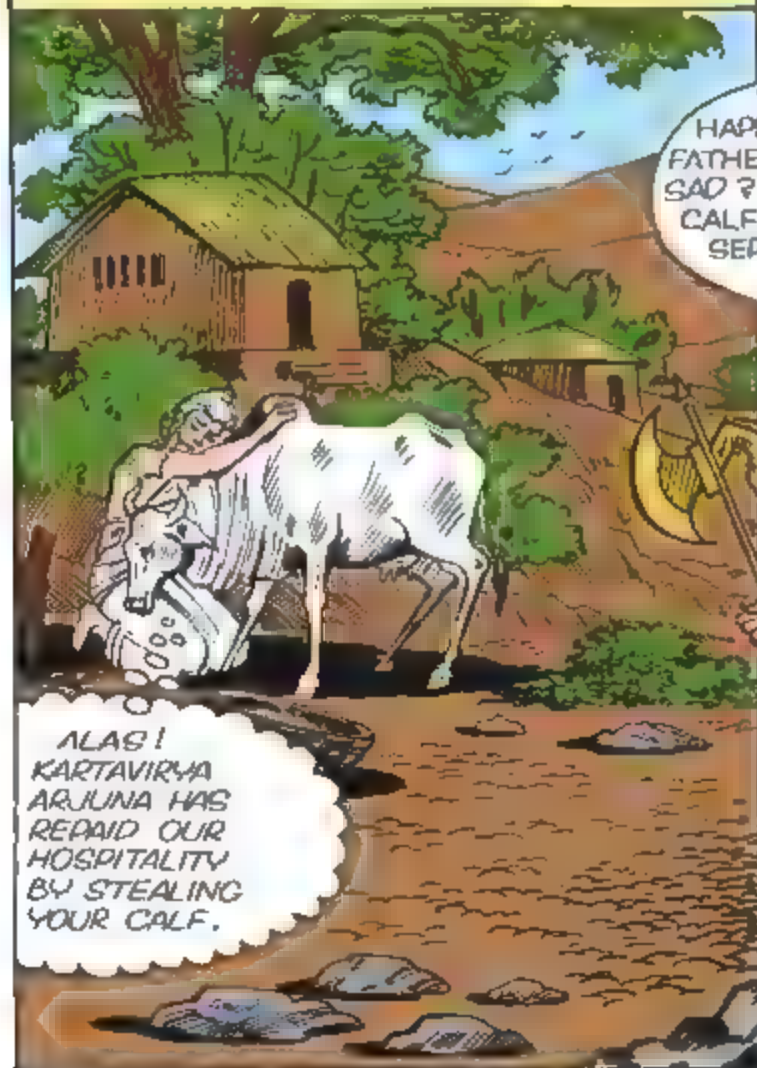
*THE MILK OF THE HOMA COW IS USED FOR SACRIFICES ETC.

THAT NIGHT THE SONS OF ARJUNA STOLE THE CALF AND MADE OFF WITH IT.



IN THE MORNING WHEN JAMADAGNI CAME OUT
OF THE ASHRAM -

JUST THEN PARASHURAMA
RETURNED.
HE SAW THEM.



WHAT HAS
HAPPENED TO HER,
FATHER? WHY IS SHE SO
SAD? WHERE IS HER
CALF? WHY ARE THEY
SEPARATED?

ALAS!
KARTAVIRYA
ARJUNA HAS
REPAID OUR
HOSPITALITY
BY STEALING
YOUR CALF.



JAMADAGNI TOLD HIM
THE WHOLE STORY.

I SHALL
KILL HIM
AND
REDEEM
YOUR
CALF!



THEN PARASHURAMA TOOK HIS AXE
AND RUSHED TO THE PALACE OF
KARTAVIRYA ARJUNA.



WHEN HE SAW THE HELPLESS CALF,
HE COULD NOT CONTROL HIS ANGER.
HE RUSHED INTO KARTAVIRYA
ARJUNA'S BEDROOM.



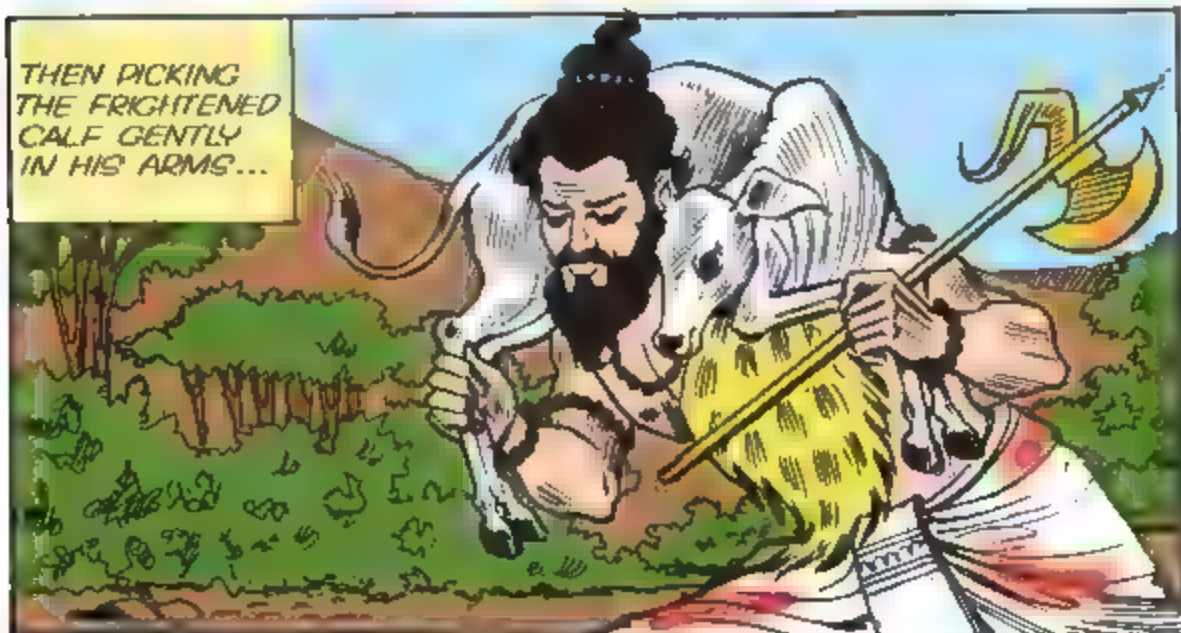
A DREADFUL COMBAT ENSUED IN WHICH PARASHURAMA HACKED OFF EACH ONE OF KARTAVIRYA ARJUNA'S THOUSAND ARMS AND...



...GLEW HIM.



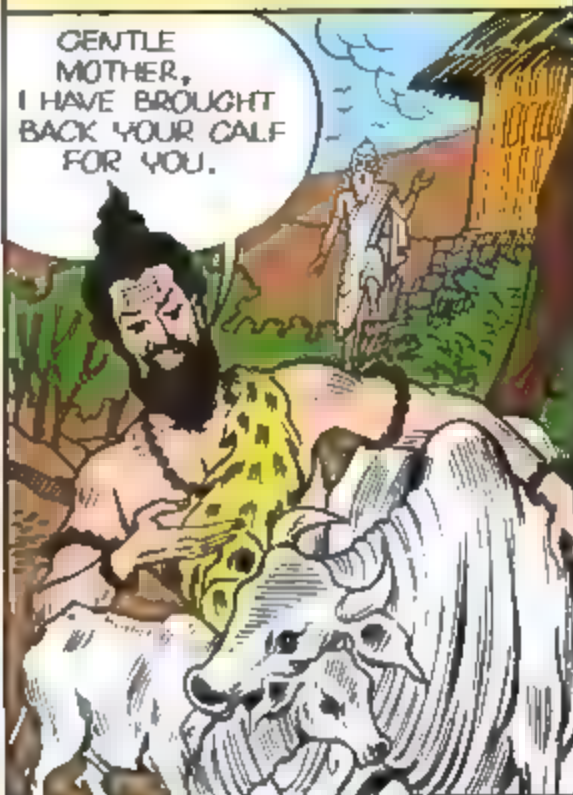
THEN PICKING THE FRIGHTENED CALF GENTLY IN HIS ARMS...



...HE MADE HIS WAY BACK TO HIS FATHER'S ASHRAM.



THEN THEY WENT TO THE COW AND -



IN THE MEANWHILE --



THEY WERE FURIOUS.



HE SHALL BE
AVENGED!
COME, LET US
SEEK OUT THE
MURDERER.

THEY MOUNTED THEIR CHARIOTS
AND CHARGED OUT OF THE PALACE.



WHEN THEY REACHED THE ASHRAM,
JAMADAGNI WAS DEEP IN MEDITATION.



PARASHURAMA
IS NOT TO BE
SEEN ANYWHERE.

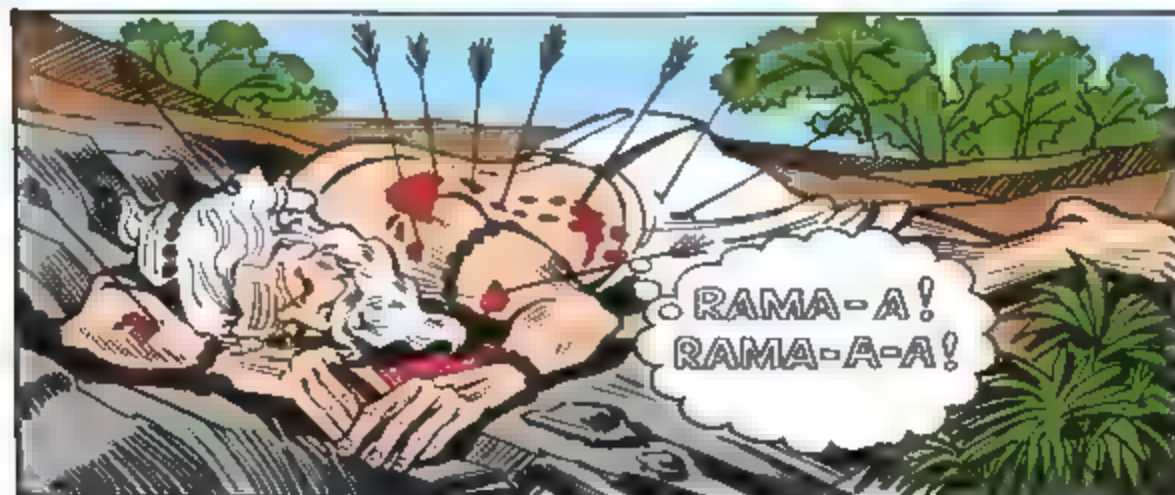
LET US
KILL HIS
FATHER
THEN.


THAT'S RIGHT.
HE KILLED
OUR FATHER.
DIDN'T HE?

THEY ATTACKED JAMADAGNI AND SHOT ARROWS AT HIM
FROM ALL DIRECTIONS.




THEY LEFT HIM DYING AND RODE AWAY.

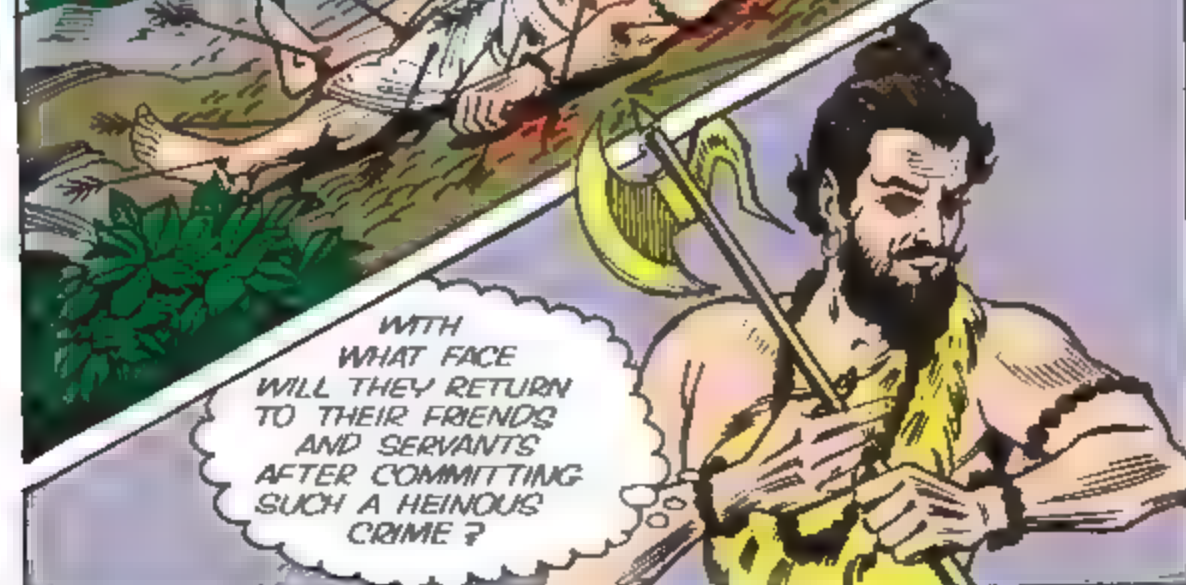




JUST THEN
PARASHURAMA
RETURNED
FROM THE
FOREST.



FATHER!
FATHER! IT IS
MY FAULT THAT
YOU HAVE BEEN
SHOT DOWN LIKE A
STAG BY THE MERCILESS
ARROWS OF THE MEAN
SONS OF ARJUNA.



WITH
WHAT FACE
WILL THEY RETURN
TO THEIR FRIENDS
AND SERVANTS
AFTER COMMITTING
SUCH A HEINOUS
CRIME?

AS PARASHURAMA CREMATED HIS FATHER'S BODY, HE TOOK A VOW.

I SHALL NOT REST,
DEAR FATHER,
TILL I HAVE WIPED OUT
THE ENTIRE MARTIAL
RACE OF THE
KSHATRIYAS.

WHEN THE LAST EMBERS
DIED OUT, HE RAISED HIS
AXE AND BEGAN HIS SELF-
IMPOSED TASK.



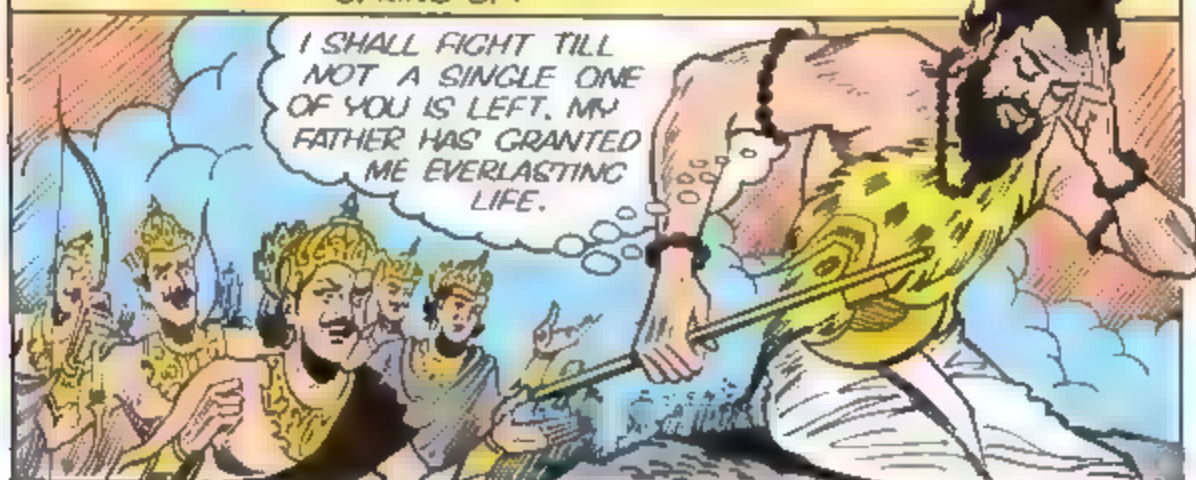
KARTAVIRYA ARJUNA'S SONS WERE THE
FIRST TO BE WIPED OUT.



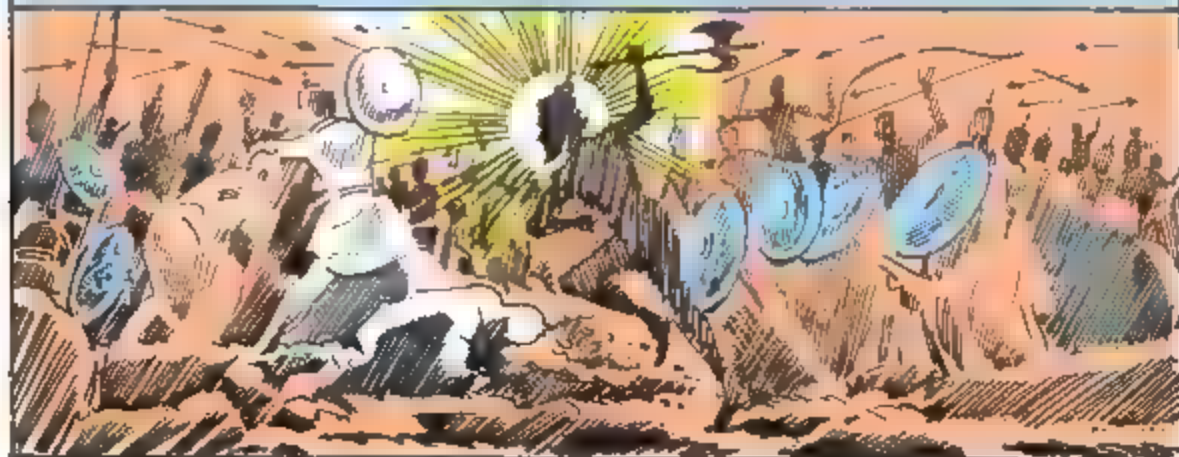
THEN ONE BY ONE HE MASSACRED ALL THE KSHATRYMAS ON EARTH.



BUT EACH TIME HE KILLED ONE LOT, THEIR SONS WOULD SPRING UP.



THUS PARASHURAMA PATIENTLY CONTINUED WIPING OUT TWENTY-ONE GENERATIONS OF KSHATRIYAS.



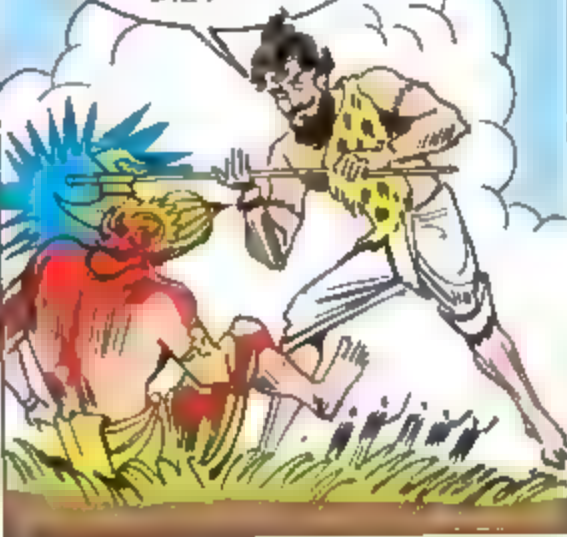
BUT ALAS! HE KILLED WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION BOTH THE EVIL AND THE GOOD KSHATRIYAS.

I HAVE HARMED NONE. MY SUBJECTS ARE HAPPY. WHY DO YOU WANT TO KILL ME AND DEPRIVE THEM OF MY PROTECTION??



BUT PARASHURAMA WAS RELENTLESS.

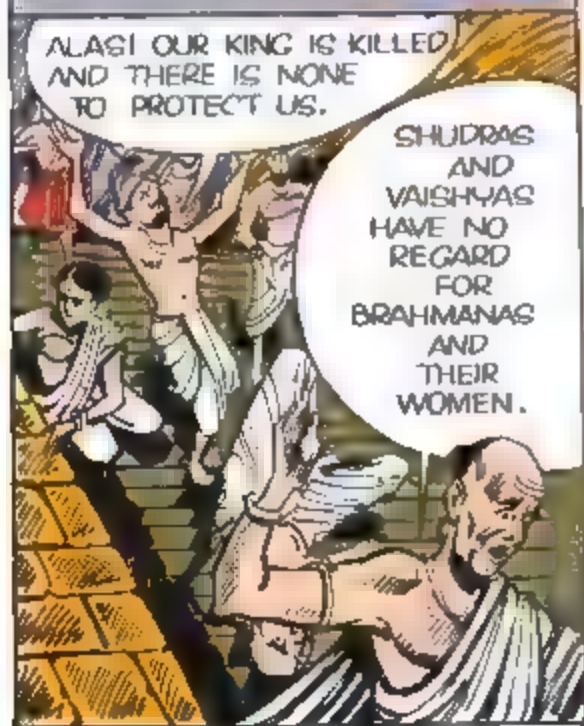
ONE OF YOUR CASTE MURDERED MY FATHER WHILE HE WAS DEFENCELESS. SO YOU SHALL DIE.



SOON THERE WERE NO STRONG GOOD MEN TO PROTECT THE GOOD ON EARTH.

ALAS! OUR KING IS KILLED AND THERE IS NONE TO PROTECT US.

SHUDRAS AND VAISHYAS HAVE NO REGARD FOR BRAHMANAS AND THEIR WOMEN.



MOTHER EARTH FELT THAT IT WAS TIME TO INTERVENE.



I SHALL APPROACH SAGE KASHYAPA.

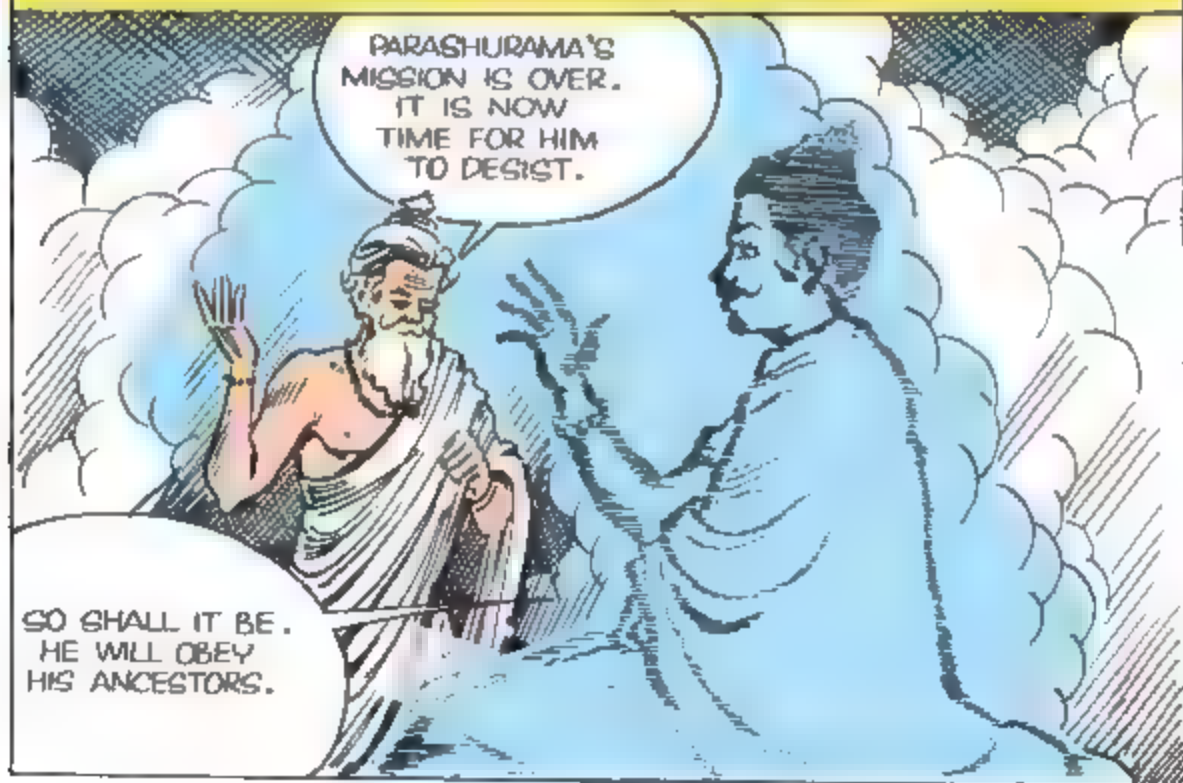
SO MOTHER EARTH WENT TO KASHYAPA.



LORD
PARASHURAMA'S
WORK IS OVER.
I AM RELIEVED
OF MY BURDEN.
PLEASE
STOP HIM NOW.

I WILL SPEAK
TO THE SPIRITS
OF HIS ANCESTORS.

KASHYAPA BY HIS SPIRITUAL POWERS,
CALLED FORTH THE SPIRIT OF RICHIKA.



PARASHURAMA'S
MISSION IS OVER.
IT IS NOW
TIME FOR HIM
TO DESIST.

SO SHALL IT BE.
HE WILL OBEY
HIS ANCESTORS.

AND RICHIKA KEPT HIS PROMISE. WHEN PARASHURAMA WAS ABOUT TO RAISE HIS AXE ON A KING OF THE TWENTY-SECOND GENERATION OF KSHATRIYAS -



PARASHURAMA THEN HELD A GREAT SACRIFICE WHERE HE DISTRIBUTED ALL HIS WEALTH TO THE BRAHMANAS.



AFTER EVERYTHING HAD BEEN GIVEN AWAY, IRONA, THE SON OF SAGE BHABADWAI, CAME TO HIM.

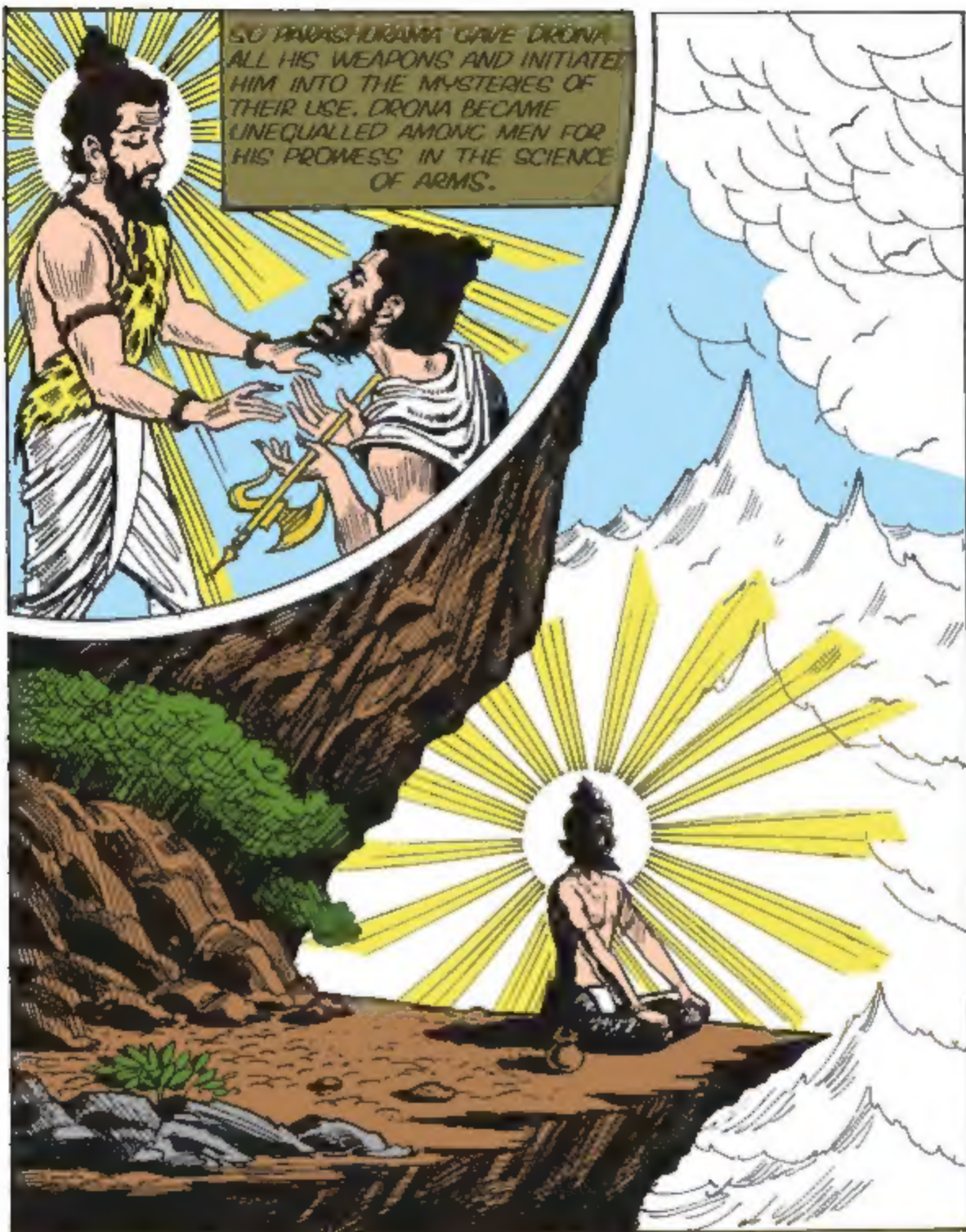
ALAS! YOU COME LATE. ALL THAT I HAVE NOW IS THIS BODY AND MY WEAPONS. I CAN GIVE YOU EITHER, AS YOU CHOOSE.



I SHALL RECEIVE THE WEAPONS WITH THE MYSTERIES OF THEIR USE.



SO PARASHURAMA GAVE DRONA ALL HIS WEAPONS AND INITIATED HIM INTO THE MYSTERIES OF THEIR USE. DRONA BECAME UNEQUALLED AMONG MEN FOR HIS PROWESS IN THE SCIENCE OF ARMS.



AND PARASHURAMA, HAVING THUS RID HIMSELF OF ALL HIS WORLDLY BURDENS, RETIRED TO THE CRESTS IN THE MAHENDRA MOUNTAINS TO SPEND THE REST OF HIS DAYS, ENGAGED IN PRACTISING THE SEVEREST OF PENANCES.

PARASHURAMA

It was a time when the earth was ravaged with violence and bloodshed. The Kshatriya kings had forgotten their duty to rule with compassion. Instead, they subdued the people by unleashing a reign of brutal terror. At such a time the sixth incarnation of Vishnu was born. Parashurama, axe-wielding warrior-saint, strode across the age to destroy evil and liberate good.

OTHER ACK EPICS & MYTHOLOGY:



DRONA



KARNA



VISHWAMITRA



ABHIMANYU



ALSO LOOK FOR:



VELU THAMPI



BRAVEHEARTS



VASAVADATTA



INDIAN CLASSICS



**THE LEARNED
PANDIT**



FABLES & HUMOUR



CHANAKYA



VISIONARIES

"Amar Chitra Kathas are a glorious tribute to India's rich cultural heritage. These books have been an integral part of my children's early years, as they have been for many other families across India. Comics are a great way of reaching out to children, inculcating reading habits and driving their quest to learn more about our roots."

- NARAYAN MURTHY, CHIEF MENTOR, INFOSYS

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